

# THRASHEVILLE

BACKLASHEVILLE: "None of this needs to be documented !!!"



Would you trust this thirsty punk singer with your cold beverage?

He's likely to end up ...

## Drunk In A Dumpster

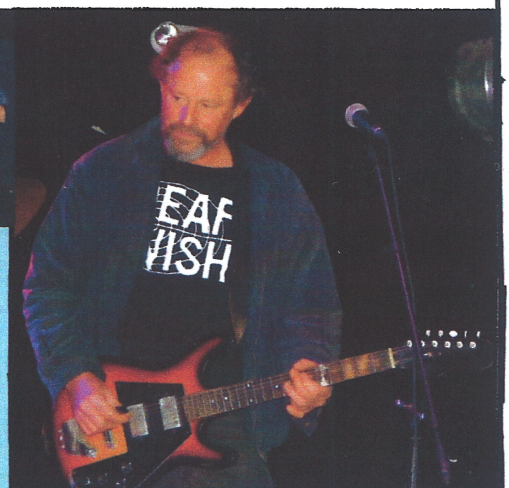


Morbids sense of humor



Back to the NEST EGG

- plus: \* obsessive gig reviews
- \* band t-shirts and back patches
- \* local band updates & alerts
- \* misty water-colored memories of the way we were ...



Don Howland:  
American Basshole

# a sobering interview with **Drunk In A Dumpster**



When we first saw the Drunk In A Dumpster backpatch on Tony Francis' vest at an early 2013 Suicidal Crack Babies show at the old Murder Basement, we imagined a band craven, foul, desperate, and degenerate. For the longest time until we actually saw Drunk In A Dumpster play, we didn't even realize that Alex of Killing Solves Everything was in DIAD (long before KSE). Turns out, Drunk In A Dumpster aren't the garbage-bathing miscreants we had envisioned. Instead, the members of DIAD turned out to be easy-going, wise-cracking, responsible, college-educated fellows with steady jobs, growing families, maybe even mortgages and health insurance. All of them are steadily growing into middle age.

While all that may seem incongruous to some punks and norms alike, the remarkable thing is that the members of Drunk In A Dumpster, despite their advanced aging ways, have not automatically dropped out of the scene as happens to many when work, family, and general burnout/apathy take precedence. Quite the contrary as they've collectively and individually stayed involved, attending and playing shows, putting out records, building relationships with other bands, and maintaining friendships within the scene. They exemplify but one of various paths punks can take to still actively up the punx even after pushing past 30 (way past). Most importantly, Drunk In A Dumpster continues to make music together \_ hardcore punk rock that is shreddingly satirical and ultimately uplifting in a get-soaked-by-beer-in-the-pit kind of way.

Drunk In A Dumpster, which formed in August of 2010, is a quintet featuring some of the best rock music chops in the scene. Three of them call Asheville home: guitarist Alex Altgilbers, who is an avowed music gear head; bassist Stephen Hawk, who has a bit of a manic twinkle in his eyes; and drummer Matthew Hudson, a sly secret weapon whom you can never really tell how drunken he actually is. These 3 virtuosos are avid participants in the scene's annual Halloween cover band benefit shows. They've played accomplished tributes as Van Halen, Jane's Addiction, and most recently Motley Cure (with co-conspirators such as singer Bonnie Beckwith and keyboard player Ashley Hawk, wife of Stephen). (But as soon as they finish playing the Halloween show, they're already jones-ing and figuring out their tribute options for the next year. It's like music-crack to them.)

Two of DIAD live elsewhere and commute to band gatherings. Guitarist Page Sigmon matches and complements Alex's fretboard histrionics note-for-note, chord-for-chord, band t-shirt-for-t-shirt, making them a dangerous, versatile axe tandem. (Page previously enjoyed a short, undefeated career as a Mixed Martial Arts fighter, so don't mess with him!) Scene veteran of many psychic wars, vocalist and lyricist David Baird is Drunk In A Dumpsters' wet brain, strategic 5-year planner, and the heart of their punk rock ethos.

A round of Drunk In A Dumpster songs can be chugged from their 2012 *Money \$hot* album which was released on their own No Profit Records. But wait, there's more! Drunk in a Dumpster will be sharing a split-record with No Anger Control from Charlotte, NC. New DIAD band shirts feature artwork by none other than Raleigh's Brian Walsby (the guy who drew the original cover for the 7 Seconds EP *Walk Together Rock Together*, David Baird (bard, bared, beard) reminds us).

*ThrAsheville* interviewed the members of Drunk In A Dumpster separately via email and this was the result:

**ThrAsheville:** *Where were you born and raised? What was it like/growing up there? What other places have you lived/what was it like? How did you come to live in Asheville (or move out of it)?*

**Alex:** Born in Illinois. Raised in Huntsville, Alabama. I was in Tennessee and Texas before Asheville. I moved here in 2006 for work.

**Matt:** West Philadelphia, born and raised, on a playground is where i spent most of my days ... That is until my family moved to Hendersonville NC, about 1985.

**Stephen:** I was born here at Fletcher hospital and grew up in Hendersonville. Hendersonville is basically where all the angry old people in Florida go to die. There really wasn't much to do except go out into the woods and drink/do drugs or ram shopping carts at the mall parking lot with your friend's car. Well that and drinking coffee/getting food poisoning in Denny's at 2am.

**Page:** I was born and raised in Hendersonville, NC. It was a fun place as a kid if you enjoyed being outside but I never fit in with the redneck majority. I moved to Charleston, South Carolina, in January 2013 to meet my wife. I also happened to have a job there.

**Dave:** I was born in Knoxville in 1972. I lived in east Tennessee for eight years and then moved to Schenectady, NY in 1980. After a year and a half, my family moved back south to Huntsville, AL, in the middle of 5th grade. Alabama = boring. Any other questions? Seriously though, if I hadn't gotten into the punk and skater culture and met my wife Jenny there, I shudder to think about how boring I might have become. In the first half of the 90s I was in college, first at Indiana University in Bloomington and later at Middle Tennessee State in Murfreesboro.

Bloomington had a thriving music scene back then. I was a DJ at the college radio station and hosted a weekly show that aired a live musical performance from a local band. We also did this annual fundraiser, outdoor concert/festival called Culture Shock. The biggest punk band in town was With Authority. They were the opening band for most of the punk and metal bands that came through town, like Green Day, Earth Crisis, Prong, etc. In 1993, I put out a 7" for With Authority on my first record label, Peer Pressure Productions. After I graduated from Indiana, I moved to Murfreesboro to take classes in Recording Industry Management at MTSU. My goal was to eventually work at a record label, and because people still paid money for music back then there were jobs. While I was at MTSU, I interned at Asylum Records in Nashville. Most people know Asylum for the music they released in the 70s: Eagles, Jackson Browne, Tom Waits and Bob Dylan. By the 90s Asylum has been reformatted as a Country/Americana label with artists like Emmylou Harris, Guy Clark, Mandy Barnett and more mainstream Country acts like Brian White, Kevin Sharp and Lila McCann. My internship became a full-time job when I graduated from MTSU in late 1995. The 37 mile commute from Nashville to Murfreesboro and the long hours quickly burned me out. I got married in 1996, and on our honeymoon (a three week road trip out west) my wife Jenny and I discovered Missoula, MT. A year later, we quit our jobs and moved there.

In the seven years we lived in Missoula, I wasn't involved in the punk scene at all. I know there was one, but my time was spent raising two kids, Ruby and Henry, working in radio and remodeling our 100 year-old house. Missoula is one of those towns where everyone works two jobs to survive, but it's got all of the hiking, mountain biking, rafting, fishing, etc. you could ever want. Missoula and Asheville are alike in many ways, except Missoula is about half the size, more remote and there isn't a conservative Christian underbelly. I'll never forget the summer the Hells Angels came to town for a weekend rally. The police totally freaked out and recruited backup from several surrounding states. It was insane. Literally every third car driving around downtown was a cop car. By the end of the weekend, not one Hells Angels member had been arrested. Ironically, the only people arrested were a few demonstrators that were part of a protest against the increased police presence. The following week, the local newspaper ran a picture of three Hells Angels standing in line at a little boy's lemonade stand. These were definitely not the outlaws that Hunter S. Thompson wrote about. Only in Missoula. I've never lived in Asheville. I sure wish I did. Currently I live in Apex, NC just south of Raleigh.

**ThrAsheville:** *What are your first musical memories?*

**Alex:** Playing my mother's acoustic guitar ... poorly.

**Page:** Mom and Dad played LPs a lot. Mom was big into Motown so growing up I listened to a lot of Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder.

**Matt:** Getting in trouble beating on drums in the band room before school in 7th grade.

**Stephen:** I took Suzuki violin lessons when I was 6. I remember trying to play along with those old Suzuki method records. My first concert I was chewing gum the whole time for some reason while trying to play. People thought there was something medically wrong with me.

**Dave:** My mother was a piano and flute teacher of 'academically gifted children,' so my first musical memories range from dead European white guys to instrumental versions of Beatles songs on the radio station Beautiful 97. My mother tried her best to teach me to play music. First the piano, then the flute and later the violin, but I was always too lazy to practice.

**ThrAsheville:** What were some of the first songs/records you heard/had/liked?

**Alex:** The Stray Cats.

**Page:** One of my first LPs was Michael Jackson's *Bad*. I really wore out Beastie Boys *License to Ill* when it first came out.

**Matt:** I remember listening to my brothers' Led Zeppelin *IV* album @ about 12 years-old, and thinking, *this shit rocks!*

**Stephen:** I was/am really into Weird Al. I listened to "Dare to Be Stupid" over and over again. I really loved his polka medleys. I heard a lot of Weird Al versions of songs before I actually heard the real song. We didn't have many radio stations around here until I was into my teens. Unless you liked country or oldies you were fucked.

**Dave:** When I was a kid, I can remember liking a lot of Country music. My granddad would play a lot of that and since it wasn't Classical, I was into it. When I was about 10, the older kid across the street got me into Rock music. The first band I ever liked was Asia. "Heat of the Moment" that was the song. Soon I moved on to cooler music like Van Halen, Iron Maiden, Kiss, Mötley Crüe, etc.

**ThrAsheville:** What were the first concerts you saw? Most memorable, favorite concerts ever seen?

**Alex:** First Concert was Def Leppard *Hysteria*. Most memorable was Mourning Widows in Boston and Ultraman in somebody's backyard in Huntsville.

**Page:** My very first concert was with my parents; we went to see the Pointer Sisters at a big amphitheater at Six Flags in Atlanta, Georgia. One of my most memorable concerts was seeing Nine Inch Nails on the *Downward Spiral* tour. I was more psyched for that show at that point in my life than probably any other.

**Matt:** First concert I tagged along with my older brothers friends and saw Jimmy Buffet. I was 14-ish and surrounded by middle aged drunks and had a blast.

**Stephen:** My first big concert was a Weird Al show in Asheville. That was probably one of my most memorable. He does all sorts of crazy costume changes. At one point he brought out this fake knife and faked slitting his wrist and spewed fake blood everywhere. The crowd was the most eclectic mix of people you will ever see anywhere in the universe. There were 70 year-old women sitting next to gals/guys with mohawks and stud jackets. I think DEVO and the Damned are probably my two most favorite concerts I've seen. I saw them both at the same show!

**Dave:** The first non-Classical concert I saw was The Beach Boys on their 25th anniversary tour after a minor league baseball game in Huntsville. As for other "mainstream music" concerts, Ray Charles with the Nashville Symphony and Jerry Lee Lewis at the Ryman Auditorium are two shows I will always remember.

**ThrAsheville:** How did you first get exposed to new wave/punk/hardcore? What did you like about it? Was there a point when you "went punk" and how did that manifest itself? What were the first punk shows you went to? (and best/most/weirdest/craziest most memorable punk shows ever?)

**Alex:** Huntsville had a big punk metal scene. I was really first exposed at a National Guard Armory show when I was 15. Random Conflict might have played that show.

**Matt:** My oldest brother used to have a bunch of skate punk tapes late 80's. I'd listen to some of them: DK, Circle Jerks, Agnostic Front, Suicidal Tendencies, Agent Orange, etc.

**Page:** Growing up in a small hick town pre-internet, it was a bit challenging to get exposed to new music and ideas. I started listening to rock and my tastes moved to metal as I heard and experienced more (thank you BMG cassette tape club!). Thrash metal was the sub-genre that most directly aligned with my tastes and still is. I wasn't lucky enough to have a "cool" older sibling but older guys that I associated with were into bands like Fugazi and Sonic Youth. Late in high school and into college, I was exposed to and gravitated towards punk and hardcore due partly to the music and partly to the lifestyle. It felt good to have found "my people".

**Stephen:** I got into skateboarding when I was really young. I had a bunch of tapes that people had made copies of copies of copies that I got from my brother of bands like Agent Orange and Dead Milkmen/Kennedys. There was no internet back then and you didn't hear punk/hardcore anywhere. It was very exciting when I got to hear new stuff. I don't think I can say I ever "went punk," I just kind of do my own thing. At one point I bleached my hair white and thought that was cool (it wasn't).

**Dave:** Ironically, my first exposure to punk was as an audience member on the TV show "Good Day San Francisco" in 1985. The topic of the show that day was Punk Rock, is it dangerous for my kids? The guests on the show included Jello Biafra and this Einstein-look-alike, sociologist Dr. Jack Levin. During the show I was asked on camera what I thought about the look of the people on stage and if it was something I might ever get into. I think I said something like, "I think it is cool, but I probably wouldn't get into it, because my parents would probably kill me."

Later that summer, my friend's older sister had heard about my encounter and she gave me a tape of the *Repo Man* soundtrack and the Black Flag *Live '84* album. I still have that tape.

That tape changed my life. I loved the energy of the music and I could relate to the lyrics.

After that I was full on into Minor Threat, 7 Seconds, Descendents, Misfits, etc.

Skateboarding, playing in bands, promoting punk shows, starting a record label (Peer Pressure Productions) and publishing a fanzine (*Biodegradable*) quickly followed.

First punk show was Monster Dog & Dead Pigeons at Underground Skate Park in Huntsville in 1987. The skate park was a bunch of wooden ramps inside this old carpet warehouse.

While the bands played there was a pit and tons of people skating all over the place. I left that show fixated on starting a band.

The most memorable I think will always be the 1991 show I promoted for Fugazi in Huntsville. Random Conflict opened and O.C.B. from Atlanta played. We had well over 700+ people crammed into this old hotel ballroom. The owner of the hotel had not renewed his fire permit, so the Fire Marshall shut the show down eight songs into Fugazi's set. I thought there was going to be a riot, but Ian MacKaye was able to calm everybody down. After the show, Fugazi, several of my friends and I went back to my parents' house for the night. Ian, Guy and several other people had this impromptu jam session on a bunch of the instruments in the music room where my mom taught her students. I wish I had a recording of that. Ian played this old pump organ that has been in our family for more than a hundred years. Later my dad brought some beer downstairs and offered some to Ian and the rest of us. For a split second the entire room went quiet and everyone stared at Ian. Talk about tension. My dad was totally clueless about the whole straight edge thing. I just shook my head and Ian laughed at him.

In 1993, I attended Fugazi's performance at the base of the Washington Monument to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Civil Rights March on Washington. There's footage of that in the Instrument documentary. You can see me for a split second standing behind their drummer.

Let's see what else. I saw so many great bands in the late 80s and 90s ... The Ramones with Social Distortion, The Exploited, Zero Boys, Sloppy Seconds, Descendents, Uniform Choice with Insted, Melvins with Mudhoney ... there are tons more.

# Drunk In An Interview



Alex \* Stephen \* Page \* Dave \* Matt

**ThrAsheville:** How did you start playing music?

**Alex:** I started playing saxophone in high school and got my first guitar when I was 15. **Matt:** I played in symphonic band in school.

**Page:** Matt, Stephen and I learned a song for the Boy Scout Show, our troop was doing the Music merit badge. It was all downhill from there.

**Stephen:** When I was around 6, I saw a Folgers coffee commercial of a bunch of people playing in an orchestra and I asked if I could take violin lessons. My mother was a music major and played piano and flute and really encouraged me once I expressed interest.

**Alex:** I started playing saxophone in high school and got my first guitar when I was 15.

**Dave:** Following that 1987 show at Underground Skates, my best friend at the time Alan Ventress and I started saving our money to buy musical equipment. We both shared a paper route and used the money from that to buy a used five-piece Remo drum set, a Hondo "Fame" bass and bass amp. Alan knew this 14-year-old kid Kenneth Winton who lived up the street and was pretty good at guitar. He could play along with Van Halen and Metallica, but hadn't really been exposed to punk, but he did ride a skateboard. By the summer of 1988, we started writing songs and practicing three or four days a week.

**ThrAsheville:** What bands have you been in?

**Alex:** First punk band was The Square Sheep ... a long time ago. I played in semi-pro blues bands for a number of years. WHAT NAME OF BLUES BAND?

**Matt:** Page, Stephen and I have been playing together off and on for years, just prior to DIAD we played in a metal cover band.

**Page:** Twenty years of on-again, off-again crappy cover band/metal cover band/fuck around jam band. We played some shows but never really did too much original while I was a part of things. The metal cover band was called Döppleganger. We covered technical stuff like late 80s/early 90s Megadeth, Metallica, Slayer, etc. We also covered more generic bar music like GnR, AC/DC, etc.

**Stephen:** I started playing with Matt and Page in my basement when we were all around 15-16. We were pretty terrible but we made up for it by being really loud. There really wasn't anywhere for us to play back then. We worked at Little Caesars at the time so one day we ran extension cords out of the back of the store and started playing in the parking lot. A van full of kids rolled up and started skating around while we were playing until the cops made us stop. I've played in various bands with Matt and Page ever since. There was a period where I worked in an 80's cover band as a job. It was about as glorious as it sounds (i.e. not glorious).

**Dave:** My first band was called The Order of Flagellants. The name came from my AP European History class. The Flagellants were religious extremists in the middle ages that participated in self-abuse (whipping themselves) as a demonstration of religious devotion. We never considered that most people would confuse flagellants with flatulence. We just thought the name sounded cool. To this day, that joke is a source of amusement to Alex.

The Flagellants sounded like the Sex Pistols meets Eddie Van Halen with straight edge lyrics. I played drums and was the lead singer. We had a small but loyal following of our skateboarding friends. Our first "show" was at the open mic night at the Tip Top Café in Huntsville, a bar much like The Odditorium in Asheville. We were three teenagers playing straight edge songs, making noise really, at a bar filled with a bunch of punks and metal heads in their early to mid-20s. The response was positive; probably because they were impressed we had the guts to get on stage and play.

The Flagellants recorded a couple of cassette-only releases, played a handful of shows and by early 1990 Kenneth quit the band.

The following day, we recruited Alex to play guitar and started a new band called The Square Sheep. I'd say we were kind of like an Oi band (people would call us street punk now), but I was still straight edge so a lot of our songs were about that. We recorded a tape and played three or four shows, but when Alan and I left for college that was the end of The Square Sheep.

I played drums for a few months in 1991, in this thrash metal band called T.A.G.E. I met their guitar player Ryan through my friendship with Dave Tate, the singer of With Authority. The band had its name before I joined, but because the rest of the guys in the band were stoned all the time, none of them could remember what the acronym T.A.G.E. meant. We played one show with With Authority, but that was it. The other guys in the band were more interested in getting high than playing music, so I quit. I later sold my drums and wasn't involved in playing music at all until Alex and I reconnected in 2008.

**ThrAsheville:** How did you get together with the other band members for *Drunk In A Dumpster*?

**Matt:** Page, Stephen, and I have been making noise together since 1991? Alex and Dave just got really lucky and met us ; )

**Stephen:** Matt, Page, and I were in Boy Scouts (Of America) together and it all started when we needed to come up with something to do at a Boy Scout Jamboree thing at the Asheville Ag center. We learned the riff from Iron Man and just played that over and over again while our friend basically free-style sang over top of it. Matt had this "drum set" he made from 3 snares he stole from band. **We tried to make a high hat for it by melting a bell with a blow torch.** They made us stop because it was really loud and horrible. I met Alex through Page, I'm not sure where Dave came from. I think he was sleeping in Alex's back yard and we felt pity on him.

**Page:** Matt and Stephen, I've known them since childhood, 20+ years. Stephen and I went and saw the original Batman movie with Michael Keaton in the theater back in 1989. I worked with Alex. We talked about guitars which morphed into talking about my crappy cover band which morphed into "hey, I know this guy Dave and we want to get something going..." Alex and Dave knew each other from years gone by and have been in other bands together.

**Alex:** Dave and I knew each other in high school. I met Page at work and the rest of the guys through Page. I knew they were into punk a little, so I stole them from their metal cover band ... according to some people.

**Dave:** When Alex and I first reconnected, we started writing songs for what we thought would be the next Square Sheep album. We wrote and recorded 20 songs or so, but our other former bandmate Alan Ventress never showed any interest in getting together with us to play music again.

In late 2009, Alex and I invited Bill Reeves to come to Asheville for the weekend to see the *Just Die!* 7" release show at Static Age and hang out. As the weekend approached, we were talking about how much fun it had been to watch the recently released movie, *American Hardcore*. We decided to try an experiment, to see how many early '80s American hardcore songs we could write and record in a 24-hour period. A few months later we released those eight songs as a 7" under the name S.C.C. (Slutty Church Chicks) That became the first release on my current record label, No Profit Records. We've never performed those songs live, maybe one day we will. I guess doing that project is what inspired Alex to start talking seriously to Page about starting *Drunk in a Dumpster*.

**ThrAsheville:** What do each of the other band members bring to the table?

**Alex:** They are all bring something unique. Dave is the showman. The other guys however are extremely well-versed at their instruments.

**Page:** Stephen brings a strong music background and laid back approach. Matt is always willing to take things up a notch to the next level, great rhythm "sense" with Stephen. Alex is an excellent facilitator and host with great solos and song ideas. Alex is a t-shirt freak. Dave has excellent drive and push for the next show, next sticker, next plan. Dave keeps us moving forward and does a great job with lyrics. Me, no comment.

**Matt:** Some little known facts: Page is semi-pro arm wrestler. Stephen is an accomplished chef and ex-vagabond/train hopper. Alex plays the sax but is too cool to let anybody know. And Dave books all the shows good and bad (\* cough cough \* Raleigh). And I'm just along for the free booze.

**Stephen:** Matt: sweat. Page: a whole bunch of Benadryl mixed with Four Loko.

**Alex:** a sweet minivan. Dave: mad rib-breaking skills and explosive PBR eruptions!

**Dave:** Alex, Page, Stephen and Matt are all incredibly talented. They never cease to amaze me with their musical ability. I frequently don't feel worthy to be in this band because what the hell do I bring to the table? I'm just the drunk, screaming, dancing monkey.

Alex keeps me grounded. There are times when I let my daydreams for this band get away from me. I frequently think, let's go on tour or let's try to do this or that, and Alex reminds me that we are just five guys with full-time jobs and we really only have time to play a show every four or six weeks.

Page brings enthusiasm. I have so much respect for his ability to always see the positive side of things. His attitude is infectious.

Stephen is truly a funny guy. He has the best laugh, and I'm jealous of his beard. Matt has a fucking *Drunk in a Dumpster* tattoo. Fuck! Now that is commitment to a band. He also has a hell of an alcohol tolerance. I've seen him drunk, but I don't think I've ever seen him out of control, sloppy wasted.

Well I guess there is that one time that Matt and I dumped a couple dozen empty bottles all over my neighbor's yard and tossed toilet paper in his trees. My neighbor, Mike, didn't show up to see us play that night so I wanted revenge. Mike's teenage daughter was having a spend the night party that same night. The parents of her friends were very concerned when they picked their daughters up the next morning. Ha! That was during the great prank war of 2012 in my neighborhood.

## Dunk In A Drumpster



**ThrAsheville:** What have the bands' tours been like? Any memorable, notable stories or shows? Favorite cities/scenes/venues? Not so favorite?

**Matt:** We don't tour.

**Alex:** We don't really tour, we all have jobs and prefer to play semi-locally.

**Page:** Tours are never more than 2 days back to back. We're just too old. Raleigh sucks!

**Stephen:** We really only go to Raleigh and Charlotte. I think the funniest thing that happened was when Page took a whole bunch of Benadryl and drank a shitload of beer. He ran up to a McDonalds drive through and tried to order some food. They wouldn't serve him because he wasn't in a car and began begging people to order food for him. After a while he started shouting, "I'M A HUMAN BEING, I JUST WANT SOME FOOD!" He never did get a burger.

**Dave:** We've only played three cities: Asheville, Raleigh and Charlotte. We've had great shows in all three places. The final *Just Die!* and *Suicidal Crack Babies* show (8.13.2013), the show we played with *Sloppy Seconds* (8.12.2012) and Alex's 40th birthday show (8.10.2013) are the three most memorable Asheville shows. I think the best Raleigh show we ever played was our record release show at The Berkeley Café (5.11.2012). There were a ton of people there and the sound system was the best we have ever played through, anywhere. Playing the *Milestone* for the first time with *No Anger Control* and *Killing Solves Everything* (4.5.2014) is my favorite Charlotte show.

**ThrAsheville:** What have been the best/worst/craziest/weirdest gigs you've played? Any awesome or funny stuff happen?

**Matt:** Worst show: Six Forks Pub, Raleigh NC, fighting and guns at shows isn't punk or cool!

**Alex:** Six Forks Pub in Raleigh. Some of the bands got in a little fight. Needless to say, a gun came out and the show was shutdown.

**Page:** Craziest was the Sick Fucks Pub show where local dickheads started shit with *Commonwealth* (Of American Natives) and the entire bar started brawling. "Don't give me that 'Yes Sir' bullshit!"

**Stephen:** We saw a girl devour and then puke up a whole key lime pie during a show once.

**Worst Show:** So we played this show at the Six Forks Pub in Raleigh (R.I.P., just kidding, fuck that place). The opening band showed up really late and everybody was already extremely drunk. Some members of two the bands got into a small scuffle in the pit. In the end a crazy brawl broke out and spilled into the parking lot. I looked out the window and it was just total insanity.

**People were fighting on top of the hoods of cars, throwing tables and chairs. The bar owner grabbed some dude and body-slammed him onto a table while screaming, "I thought this was some peaceful shit!"** Then a guy pulled out a gun at which point we all decided it was time to get the fuck out of there and we hauled ass. We all blame David for this.

**Dave:** Our sixth show is truly the only bad show we have ever played. It was at Six Forks Pub in Raleigh on 1.21.2012 with The Commonwealth of American Natives, Angry Youth, Piss Ant and Bad Idea. The show started 90 minutes late because the local, opening band Bad Idea was late to the show. Then they proceeded to do a 45+ minute set. (Note to all bands: Never play longer than 20-25 minutes. Unless you are a legendary punk band from the 1970s or '80s that hasn't played live in 25 years, no one gives a fuck.) We played second and during our set the bar ran out of PBR. What the fuck, this is a punk show?

The evening dragged on and several of the people who had come to the show to see Bad Idea were getting really drunk. The Commonwealth of American Natives played last and some of these guys kept harassing Alex, Commonwealth's female bass player. One of them kept jumping on the stage, shouting nonsense into the microphone during their songs. Not long after that, this same guy pushed the singer from Angry Youth to the floor and broke the glass he was drinking from.

That started a fist fight that spilled outside the club. The Bad Idea guys went out to their cars to get baseball bats and the dudes from Angry Youth and Piss Ant followed them, as well as a couple of black guys who were regulars at the bar. A bunch of tables and chairs got broken, holes kicked in the walls, and the glass window out front was busted.

Several of the guys who were with Bad Idea were chanting "Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill!" and "White Power!" At one point guns were drawn. That's when we packed up our shit and headed back to my house. We left just as the police were showing up. Fighting and violence sucks. If you want to end punk shows in your town, starting fights never fails to accomplish that.

**ThrAsheville:** What bands have you enjoyed playing on the same bills with?  
**Matt:** Favorite band we played with: *Sloppy Seconds*, they are fucking AWESOME!

**Stephen:** We got to do a show with *Sloppy Seconds*. I still can't believe that happened, it was awesome.

**Alex:** All of them. However, we have really gotten to know *No Anger Control* from Charlotte. We are always up for a show with them. The most entertaining two shows we played were the last *Just Die* show and *Sloppy Seconds* in 2012 with *Zombie Queen* and *The DiMarcos*.

**Page:** Too many to list, but KSE and *No Anger Control* are some of my favorites. Random Conflict, Commonwealth of American Natives, Piss Ant, The Budget, too many more to list.

**Dave:** I've enjoyed nearly all of the bands we've played with, but there are a few that are part of my everyday playlist: *Sloppy Seconds*, *Stripmines*, *Rational Animals*, *Random Conflict*, *Piss Ant*, *No Anger Control*, *No Tomorrow*, *Future Crimes*, *Killing Solves Everything*, *The DiMarcos* and *Just Die!*

**ThrAsheville:** What are your feelings regarding the band's recordings? Do you have favorite songs and why?

**Matt:** Favorite songs haven't been recorded. Alex and I are slackers.

**Stephen:** We've only recorded 1 album in 5 years. I think we're pretty lazy. My favorite song changes all the time. I always like "Money Shot".

**Alex:** No favorite recordings. We are about to start our second record. Hopefully there are some good ones on there. Since I do the recording, I honestly can't go back and listen to them. I am usually sick of them by the time it is done.

**Page:** Alex is no Rick Rubin, but he does a kick ass job getting us tracked out and sounding good. Dave was 100% responsible for getting our vinyl pressed and promoted. Really they do all the heavy lifting here. My favorite song is "Money Shot", only because of the middle part \_ I love the way that it sounds when I'm playing it on stage with Alex. My amp slowly giving over to feedback while he's chording out, then our chords get almost dissonant for a sec, then it's dual palm mute chugging. I literally can't help smiling during that part every time we play it.

**Dave:** I think I am the only member of the band that feels this way, but I am only interested in releasing our music on physical copies, primarily vinyl. It isn't that I don't like MP3s, I just want to have something physical to hold. Thirty years from now, when I look back at this band, I want there to be something more than a list of MP3 files on my computer. I have so many friends from back in the 80s who didn't keep a copy of the records, CDs and/or tapes that their band released back then. When I am able to give them an original copy of something they were involved in, from their reaction, you would think I have given them a winning lottery ticket.

I like our LP *Money Shot* but I'm not sure it captures what we sound like live. The sound quality of the recording is excellent, but I think it fails to capture how raw and chaotic we are when we are having fun playing a live show. I like all of the nine original songs we have recorded for different reasons. I suppose my favorite from that album is "Suicide Bride." It's my favorite of all of our songs that tell a story. It has a great beginning, middle and end both musically and lyrically.

**Knurd  
Ni A  
Retspmud**



**Kela \* Nehpets \* Egap \* Divad \* Wehttam**

**ThrAsheville:** What were the early days of the band like? What was the band's initial ideal and has it changed over the years?

**Alex:** Since Dave lived out of town when we started, Page, Stephen, and I got together to write songs. Matt was working a lot then. So we would send demos to the guys to add their parts. Now since Page moved to Charlotte, Matt, Stephen, and I write the songs and send the demos to Dave and Page. That's really the only thing that has changed.

**Page:** Mostly it was lots of Mexican food and beer, interspersed with short periods of 2-3 of us together at a time writing and recording tracks. Only after Dave got a "tape" of the completed songs and added lyrics did we really get together and start playing them. We started more punkish and have gotten progressively more thrashy.

**Matt:** The band was "supposed to get Page laid". Now he's married, so he's not getting laid.  
**Stephen:** We didn't know Alex or Dave very well. We basically recorded and wrote the whole first album by emailing each other recordings. Actually that's still what we do. We never really set out with an agenda other than to have fun and drink.

**Dave:** In the early days, I was the only member of the band who didn't live in Asheville. They rest of the guys would get together to write songs, and they would send me MP3 recordings by e-mail. I would take what they sent and write the lyrics. I guess we had four or five songs already written before all five of us were ever in the same room together. Most of the time the band would practice without me and I would use the MP3s they sent like a karaoke CD to learn my part, but there were a few times we were all able to get together in the same room to rehearse.

I once drove to Asheville on a Sunday, just so we could practice in advance of our first show. Four hours driving to Asheville. Thirty minutes of practice. Four hours back to Raleigh. We went on like this for a year before we ever played our first show. What was the band's initial ideal and has it changed over the years? Fight sobriety not wars! Ha! Actually, I'm not sure we ever had an initial ideal or not. Just having initiative is an accomplishment for us. I guess our initial ideal was to play music and have fun. We have done that and continue to do that.

**ThrAsheville:** What was Asheville like when you first knew it and how has it d/evolved?

**Alex:** We have been together for less than 5 years. However, in that time there are a lot more tourists and the other bands seem to have gotten younger. Or we have gotten older.

**Page:** Asheville was kind of a wastoid town when i was younger and has gotten better. I think Asheville has more identity now.

**Matt:** More people now uph.

**Stephen:** Asheville had absolutely nothing in it when I was growing up. There was one or two clubs and a few bars. Everything was boarded up and pretty shitty. We used to go there to see shows but that didn't happen very often. It's really grown a lot recently. Unfortunately it's getting to the point that it's pricing people out of housing and it's getting more difficult to live here. Still, it's way better than it used to be.

**ThrAsheville:** What was the Asheville music scene like when you first got involved? How has it changed since then?

**Matt:** Everybody has gotten a lot younger (or maybe I'm getting older).

**Alex:** Surprisingly, a lot of bands have come and gone in 5 years. The Get Down became the Odditorium. Show spaces have changed. All in all, I think it has gotten a little stronger though. However, I still miss The Budget.

**Page:** Used to be Stella Blue. Now there are great options all over town for all types of music. Street corners to brew pubs to the Peel.

**Stephen:** Waaaay back a long time ago they used to have punk shows in an alley downtown. There weren't many people around. The music scene in Asheville is crazy now. We are very fortunate to have so many awesome bands playing around town and venues that you can play in safely.

**Dave:** My first exposure to the Asheville scene was the Just Die! 7" release show with Nasty Ponies at Static Age Records. I had a great time and met a lot of cool people that night. As far as how the scene has changed since then, I think my perspective is unique. Because I live four hours away, I only go to Asheville shows every six weeks or so. I know quite a few people in town, but really only casually. I do my best to keep up with what is going on here with Facebook, but when people stop using their real names on their profiles, I frequently have difficulty remembering who they are. My perception is the scene has had some minor ups and downs, bands have come and gone, friendships have come and gone, but the foundation of the scene is as strong as it ever has been.

**ThrAsheville:** What bands/acts/venues do you remember fondly?

**Stephen:** I really liked The Budget. "Waterboarding" is an awesome song. (Editor's note: see ThrAsheville issue #1 for the now-classic seminal interview with The Budget.)

**Alex:** The Budget. Just Die! I like the Odditorium, but still miss seeing Mikki and Sam at the Get Down.

**Page:** I'm glad the Orange Peel opened and started bringing larger national acts to town, even if they aren't punk. There have been a bunch of fun shows there like Anthrax, Megadeth, and Cannibal Corpse.

**Matt:** Killing Solves Everything, Random Conflict, No Anger Control, DiMarcos, Just Die!, shit I can't remember all the local bands that we've had awesome shows with.

**Dave:** We've probably played with Killing Solves Everything the most and I love those guys. Honestly, I've enjoyed every band, every show and every venue we've ever played in Asheville. There are so many great bands and cool people. But again, since I don't live in town, there are so many Asheville bands unfortunately I never got a chance to see or have never yet seen perform live: Pleasures of the Ultraviolet, Claypool, Prick Bigot, Megahurtz, Autarch. I'm sure there are more I don't even know about. At least it looks like I can cross Pleasures off that list this February.

**ThrAsheville:** How does Dumpster fit in with the larger punk music scene regionally/nationally/internationally?

**Stephen:** I have no idea. Do we?

**Alex:** We don't.

**Matt:** We're punk?

**Page:** We get along with everyone, we're just some dudes doing our thing.

**Dave:** Regionally, we are obscure. Nationally, I would say we are invisible. Internationally, how about ... non-existent? In all seriousness, we are five guys who like to get together every month or so to play music, drink beer and have a good time. It's not any more complicated than that. I am so grateful that people come to see us play. I will never take that for granted. Every show we play is on my list of all-time favorite shows. Look, I'm 42 years old and who knows how long this band will last. Is this my last band? Probably, yeah, so I want to enjoy every fucking minute of this.

**Drunk In A Dumpster BONUS ONLINE SINGLE !!!**

Inspired by the scene and the zine, Drunk In A Dumpster wrote and recorded the song, "ThrAsheville," for which we are honored and appreciative.

Go to <https://drunkinadumpster.bandcamp.com/> click on the Buy It Now link and enter a price of \$0, then sing along!

"ThrAsheville" by Drunk In A Dumpster

*Down in the basement  
With all our friends  
Drunk on beer  
Don't want this to end*

*This is our scene  
United and strong  
Thrashing in the pit  
And singing our songs*

*Let's stand together  
Let's shout together  
This is ThrAsheville!*

*Let's stand together  
Let's shout together  
This is ThrAsheville!*

*Three killer bands  
Playing raging tunes  
For a rowdy group of punks  
Drunk since noon*

*We're in this together  
That's what it's all about  
You're standing with us  
Now we wanna hear you shout*

*Let's stand together  
Let's shout together  
This is ThrAsheville!*

*Let's stand together  
Let's shout together  
This is ThrAsheville!*

**ThrAsheville:** Who of Dumpster is the most punk and why?

**Stephen:** Holy shit, none of us?

**Alex:** Nobody really. I think we are just a little too old to worry about it. (It's me, I'm the most punk.)

**Page:** Matt, maybe? Least give-a-damn of the bunch. I still don't like labels tho.

**Matt:** Frank!

**Dave:** This will probably make me sound like a curmudgeon, but I hate it when people turn punk into a competition. Endless, trivial arguments on social media sites about minute aspects of punk music or the punk lifestyle tend to depress me. Like everything in life, punk means different things to different people. I never thought punk music was going to change the world, but it certainly changed my world. I have a group of friends I have met through punk that I love deeply and would take a bullet for any of them. Plus, I have a huge stack of punk records that will bring a smile to my face every time I listen to them, until I draw my final breath.

**ThrAsheville:** Do you consider yourself a punk rocker?

**Alex:** I like punk music and I don't handle authority well. I'm not sure if I am punk rock or not.

**Stephen:** I don't consider myself to be a punk rocker. I enjoy subversive art and music but I don't think I identify as punk.

**Page:** I don't put a label on myself, I'm just too many things to be categorized. I play in a hardcore band in dive bars and (even better) basements. I've spent years in universities educating myself. I'm employed as a professional. I love animals and people, and would like to see them all treated respectfully. I like sports. I'm married. All these things roll up into "me". If I had to summarize my outlook on life it would be "respect people's opinions and choices for themselves; don't let other people's decisions or feelings hold you down or diminish your well-being."

**Matt:** I'm just not that punk.

**Dave:** Yes, I consider myself to be a punk, but in the '70s and '80s definition of the term. Back then there was a clear reason for being a punk, it was us against them. I think Keith Morris said it best in the opening minutes of the movie *American Hardcore*: "I hate my boss. I hate the people that I work with. I hate my parents. I hate all these authority figures. I hate politicians. I hate people in government. I hate the police. And now I have a chance to be with my own type of people, and I have a chance to go off. That's basically what it was."

I've always loved the energy, unpredictability and creativity of punk. This sense that there is nothing you can't do. If you want to play in a band, then start one. If you want to put on shows, put out records, write for a magazine, just fucking do it yourself. The only person stopping you is YOU. That's what makes punk great.

I hate how societal pressures prevent people from living their lives to the fullest potential, making their dreams come true. Random Conflict is right: tradition is the enemy of freedom. It doesn't matter if no one likes your band. What matters is that you like it. It's your art. Who gives a fuck what others think. Turn off the TV, shut down the computer, put down the video game controller, and go out and make your own entertainment and experiences with your friends, both old and new.

**ThrAsheville:** What do you think of the (myriad of) punk scene(s) before and now? Are there any issues/non-issues you care to address/complain about/offer constructive criticism about?

**Alex:** I have noticed that the punk/metal scene is quite large. However, I have noticed it is a little segmented. Maybe it's because of the styles of music. It's not a bad or good thing. I just noticed it.

**Dave:** There are so many scenes or sub-genres of punk. I am OK with this, so long as these subgroups aren't used to divide the overall scene. I can't tell you how many bands in my life I've watched at a punk show and thought, "these guys really suck." But, who am I to judge? I'm going to support them because they are getting out there and doing something creative. That is the whole point of this punk thing. Do something creative and have fun. When people, bands or scenes lose sight of that, I have no interest in participating.

I also reject anyone who uses racism, sexism, homophobia, religion, conservative politics, etc. to divide the scene. That shit is weak and has no place in punk. Punk is my escape from that kind of bullshit.

**ThrAsheville:** When's the last time you slam-danced or stage-dived?

**Alex:** I think it was at Sloppy SecdnDs. I was tossed up to the ceiling.

**Matt:** Last insane circle pit I was in was DRI @ Punk Rock Bowling 2013

**Page:** Slam-danced probably recently but it's less and less frequent the older I get. Stage dived never, as I don't want to accidentally kick someone in the face.

**Stephen:** Last week at Reverend Horton Heat show. I don't do it as much since the time Dave tackled me at a show and broke one of my ribs.

**Dave:** I slam-dance at nearly every show I go to. The only time I don't is when I have determined that there is a high likelihood that I might get hurt or hurt someone else. When the room has a lot of sharp corners and it isn't packed with a ton of people, that's when people get hurt. When I was a kid, I didn't give a shit, but now that I pay for my own healthcare, it gives me pause. Oh, and I do not participate in this robotic, ninja kicking crap. What the fuck is that anyway? As for stage diving, I stopped doing that years ago after I hit my head on the floor three times in a row. Maybe if I dropped 150 pounds, I might do it again, but until then, I don't trust anyone to catch me.

